



Isiah Leggett, County Executive
Timothy Firestone, Chief Administrator Officer

Catherine Matthews, Director
Mark Firley, UCAB Chair

July 31, 2015

Montgomery County Council Approves \$54 Million Budget Savings Plan

See press release at
http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Council/PressRelease/PR_detailsNew.asp?PrID=15124

Details on the savings plan are found at <http://tinyurl.com/nmtkdsq>



“National Night Out” Events in Upcounty

Tuesday, August 4
(for locations and times, visit www.mymcpnews.com)



A number of communities around the county are hosting “National Night Out” (NNO) activities on Tuesday for their neighborhood residents while others are opening their events to the public. NNO was launched years ago by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) to bring residents and law enforcement officers together in partnership to strengthen neighborhoods and fight crime.

“National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Together, we are making that happen.

Neighborhoods across the nation host block parties, festivals, parades, cookouts and other various community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel and exhibits.” - NATW website

For a listing of locations with the Montgomery County Police Department, visit
<http://www.mymcpnews.com/2015/07/28/2015-national-night-out-events/>

For a listing of locations with the City of Gaithersburg Police Department, visit <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/news/press-releases/2015/07/20150727-gaithersburg-neighborhoods-participate-in-32nd-annual-national-night-out-against-crime>

To learn more about National Night Out and NATW, visit <http://natw.org>.

County's Consumer Protection Office Joins Better Business Bureau, U.S. Postal Inspectors to Shut Down Deceptive Mail Solicitations Sent to Maryland Homeowners

http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=15100

Update: Lake Whetstone Dredging Project

The contractor is almost ready to begin! They will most likely start early next week. As always, you can visit the website for additional information: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/water/major-stormwater-project.html#lakewhetstonedredge>.

If you have questions, please contact:

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Comcast County Contract Renewal Public Hearing

Monday, August 3 7:00pm
Executive Office Building – Lobby Level Auditorium
101 Monroe Street, Rockville

Comcast of Potomac, LLC applied for a franchise renewal, which would authorize Comcast to use County rights-of-way to provide cable services. The public is invited to a hearing to provide input regarding the application. You may sign up to testify in-person, or with submitted comments, at www.bit.ly/talkrenewal

Links to the Comcast of Potomac, LLC renewal application and related documents can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cable/comcastrenewal.html>

Montgomery County's Cable Office Reaches Milestone with More Than 10,000 Inspections over Five Year Period

Inspectors with Montgomery County's Office of Cable and Broadband Services, in the Department of Technology Services, have performed more than 10,000 inspections of residential, commercial, public and educational sites since 2010. The inspections are available to assist consumers with cable equipment located in yards, throughout neighborhoods and within business districts.

"This is one of the best resources that the County offers," said Adam Landsman, property manager for Abaris Realty, a Rockville-based company that provides services to more than 150 properties in the Washington metropolitan area. "These inspections allow us to enforce standards and to maintain values for our community. They are invaluable."

Cable inspectors can help determine which company is performing installations or construction in an area, talk to crews on behalf of the homeowner or community, and work with the cable provider to ensure proper restoration of damage caused by the construction.

The Office of Cable and Broadband Services is responsible for administering cable television franchise agreements for the County and participating municipalities. The office facilitates and coordinates the entry of competing providers of telecom services; manages County Cable Montgomery, the government access channel; resolves issues regarding cable and broadband technology for the County; monitors and comments on changes in state and federal laws and regulations; provides staff support to the Cable and Communications Advisory Committee; and coordinates the siting of telecommunications transmissions facilities.

For more information about the Cable Office or cable inspections, check the [website](#).

MCDOT Wins TPB Grant that to Fund New Trail in Clarksburg

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved \$523,416 for the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) to fund the design and engineering of a shared use path and sidewalk along Maryland (MD) Route 355 in Clarksburg from Snowden Farm Parkway to Stringtown Road. The path will create a link in the existing trail network along MD 355 between Little Bennett Regional Park Trail and the Frederick Road Bike Path. Montgomery County will contribute about \$131,000 to the project if approved by the County Council.

The grant comes from the Maryland Transportation Alternatives Program, which provides federal funds for projects considered as alternatives to traditional highway construction. The program combines three former federal programs: Transportation Enhancements, Safe Routes to Schools and Recreational Trails. The Maryland program is facilitated by the Maryland State Highway Administration and final funding recommendations are subject to review and approval by the State Secretary of Transportation.

TPB also approved other projects that will benefit Montgomery County:

- \$2 million in grant funds for Montgomery Parks to construct the North Branch Hiker-Biker Trail. This trail is an important link between the Lake Frank/Rock Creek Trail and the Muncaster Mill Road Bikeway/ICC Shared Use Path. [See location.](#)
- \$99,703 to the City of Rockville for the Falls Road East Shared Use Path.
- \$395,000 to the City of Takoma Park for Lincoln Avenue sidewalks (Safe Routes to School).

More information and a map of project locations are available [online](#).

Board of Elections to Hold Public Hearing Regarding Selection of Early Voting Centers in Montgomery County

Saturday, September 12 10:00am

**Executive Office Building, Lobby Level Auditorium
101 Monroe Street, Rockville**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections has scheduled a public hearing to receive testimony from the public about the list of Early Voting Centers for the upcoming presidential election. Each local Board of Elections in the State of Maryland is required to review its list of early voting sites every two years and make recommendations to the State Board of Elections. The Montgomery County Board is seeking public input prior to making its recommendations, which are due at the end of September.

Under state law, Montgomery County must select at least eight Early Voting Centers and may select an additional ninth site. Early voting in Maryland runs from Thursday to Thursday, ending the Thursday before the election, although in person voting by absentee ballot is still available at each local Board of Elections until Election Day.

In addition, public comments will be heard during the August 31, 2015, meeting of the Board of Elections to be held at 2:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Board of Elections, 18753 N. Frederick Avenue, in Gaithersburg.

Details for how to testify at the hearing are available at

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/BoardInformation/PublicParticipation.html> -

elections@montgomerycountymd.gov. **Written comments may be sent to elections@montgomerycountymd.gov until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, September 16.**

Maps of sites that have previously been used by the county are available on the Board of Elections website at www.777vote.org and a complete list of all sites being considered will be available prior to the hearing.

Most Vulnerable Residents Who Rent
*Approval of Bill 21-15 Will Assist Renters in Same Manner That
State 'Circuit Breaker' Helps Low Income Homeowners*

The County Council has unanimously approved Bill 21-15 that establishes a County Renters' Property Tax Relief Supplement for certain residents who qualify for a payment from the State "Renters' Tax Credit Program."

The State payment to renters is modeled after the Homeowners' Tax Credit (commonly referred to as the "Circuit Breaker"), and is based on the premise that a portion of rent paid by renters is attributable to property tax paid by the owner of the property. The purpose of the State payment is to return some of that money to renters in the same way it is returned to homeowners through the Circuit Breaker payment. Eligibility for the County supplement would be tied to eligibility for the State payment. The County supplement under the bill would be 50 percent of the State payment, which is capped at \$750.

Renters will have until September 1 each year to apply for the credit.

It is estimated that the average payment would be about \$125 per year and about 515 County residents currently will be eligible for the credit. It is estimated that 15 percent of most rent charges represents taxes paid by the property owner.

More information about the program is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/p5fjs4y>

**Scholarship Opportunities at the College from MC Foundation and
WDCE Maryland Recruiting Community Fellow for Montgomery's VITA Partnership**

Maryland Community Fellow Program (\$ 9,000) Deadline for applications is August 10, 2015

Montgomery College Scholarships

- **WDCE Career Path Scholarship Up to \$ 1,000 Deadline for applications is August 12, 2015**
- **Montgomery College Foundation Scholarships Deadline for applications is August 31, 2015**
- **The Transitional Living Scholars Scholarship**

Questions? Contact: Gloria Bonilla, Adviser
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For more News from the Office of the County Executive, visit: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/news>

For other news and meeting agendas, visit:

County Council <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/csltmpl.asp?url=/content/council/news/news.asp>
Planning Board http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/departments/news_releases

Also check out the latest from:

Department of Public Libraries <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>
Department of Recreation <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/rectmpl.asp?url=/content/rec/index.asp>
Department of Transportation <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot/index.html>
Department of Environmental Protection <http://www6.montgomerycountymd.gov/deatmpl.asp?url=/content/dep/dephome/index.asp>
Department of Permitting Services <http://permitting.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/general/Home.aspx>
Montgomery County Volunteer Center <http://www.montgomeryserves.org>
Office of Community Partnerships <http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs100/1102184431012/archive/1117215431562.html>
Commission for Women <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/index.html>